29th November 1928]

A.—(a) From the accounts submitted to the Government by the Chairman it appears that the expenditure on the maintenance of the roads in 1927-28 exceeded the budget provision for the purpose by Rs. 4,934.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government have no information. They have called for a report.

(e) Whether any action on the part of the Government is necessary can be decided only after the receipt of the report.

Jails

Diet to non-vegetarian prisoners in jails.

*977 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of giving the non-vegetarian prisoners the kind of food they are used to, has been considered as promised in answer to the supplementary question to question No. 827 answered on 22nd October 1927; and

(b) if so, with what result?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have decided that no change in the existing practice is called for.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have abandoned the principle of giving the food the prisoners are used to in the case of Indian prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The answer is given there."

Panchayat Courts

Provision of a clerk and peon for Panchayat Court.

978 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table of the House copy of the proceedings, dated the 30th September 1928, of the Panchayat Court Members of the Kasargod taluk in South Kanara sent to him regarding the provision of a clerk and peon for each court, more stationery and furniture, etc.; and

(b) to state whether the Government have taken or propose to take any, and if so, what action in the matter?

A.—(a) A copy of the proceedings referred to is laid on the table.[a]

(b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Panchayat Courts in South Kanara district.

*979 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of village courts and the number of panchayat courts in the several taluks of South Kanara (from the latest returns available) classifying them under the following heads, viz., those which have below

[a] Printed as Appendix XVII on pages 545-546 infra.

100 suits per year, 100 to 300 suits, 300 to 500 suits, 500 to 1,000 suits, 1,000 to 1,500 suits, 1,500 to 2,000 suits, 2,000 to 3,000 suits and over 3,000 suits (or any similar classification to show the quantity of work);

(b) the total income and expenditure from these courts talukwar;

(c) the number out of these which are supplied with a clerk or a peon or both;

(d) the approximate monthly salary given to such clerk or peon;

(e) the nature and adequacy of the furniture supplied to these courts;

(f) the nature and adequacy of the stationery supplied to them; and

(g) whether Government propose to call for a report from the Collector of the district on the actual needs of these courts with regard to

(i) a clerk and a peon,

(ii) the furniture,

(iii) stationery, and

(iv) on the additional cost that may be required for the same and place the same report on the table of the House, when received?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) The Government have no information.

(*g*) The Government do not consider it necessary to call for a report.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"May I ask why the Government do not consider it necessary to call for a report for furnishing information regarding the necessity for a clerk, peon and some furniture, etc.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Because, the benefit that is likely to be derived from this enquiry is not proportionate to the amount of trouble involved in the enquiry."

Railways

Alleged scarcity of well-spanned bridges in Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts.

*980 *Q.*—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the recent floods in the Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts are due partly to the absence of sufficient number of well-spanned bridges and culverts on the railway line capable of draining away accumulations of water due to heavy rains in the hills and flooded streams;

(*b*) whether the Government intend investigating into the matter of the sufficiency and capacity of the existing bridges and culverts of the railway line in the Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts; and

(*c*) whether with reference to the Cocanada-Kotipalli Railway that is now under construction the Government propose to take proper precautions to provide a sufficient number of well-spanned bridges in view of the fact that the Cocanada-Kotipalli Railway line runs through delta irrigation tracts?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no reason to think that the floods are due to the cause mentioned, but they will consider the question and address the Agent if necessary.

(*c*) Due precautions are being taken in the case of the Cocanada-Kotipalli Railway.